GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2578
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Hazardous Wastes
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hazardous wastes are posing great threat to public health and environment;
(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of hazardous waste generated annually;
(c) the mechanism in place to monitor the units which generate hazardous wastes; and
(d) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) &(b) Hazardous wastes due to their reactive, toxic, flammable, explosive or corrosive characterstic cause danger or is likely to cause danger to health or environment, whether alone or in contact with other wastes or substances. It basically comprises of the waste generated during the manufacturing processes of the commercial products such as industries involved in petroleum refining, production of pharmaceuticals, petroleum, paint, aluminum, electronic products etc. As per, the information furnished by CPCB in the year 2015, the total hazardous waste generation in the country is 7.46 million metric tonnes per annum from about 44,000 industries.

(c) As per Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 monitoring of units which generate hazardous wastes comes under ambit of State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of Union Territories.

(d) The Government has comprehensively revised the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 in April, 2016 and Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 have been notified. The salient features of the Rules,2016 are listed below:

i. The ambit of the Rules has been expanded by including 'Other Wastes'.
ii. Permission for handling such wastes in the form of Authorization and Registration requirement is replaced with one permission i.e. authorization.
iii. The basic necessity of infrastructure to safeguard the environment and health has been prescribed as Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) specific to waste type.
iv. Waste Management hierarchy in the sequence of priority as prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling, recovery, co-processing; and safe disposal being incorporated.
v. Responsibilities of State Government for environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes have been introduced fro skill development, health safety etc.
vi. Various Schedules have been reviewed as per international best practices.
vii. The list of waste prohibited for import has been revised by inclusion of waste edible fats, household waste, critical care medical equipment, tyres for direct re-use purpose, solid plastic wastes, waste electrical and electronic assemblies scrap and other chemical wastes especially in solvent form.

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